



The Riverdale Citizen

A Newsletter Written by the Citizens' Advisory Committee
www.cityofriverdale.com



Rick Scoggins
Council Member
Ward 1



Michelle Bruce
Council Member
Ward 2



Mayor Phaedra Graham



Wanda Wallace
Council Member
Mayor Pro Tempore, Ward 3



Kenny Ruffin
Council Member
Ward 4

From Your City of Riverdale Governing Authority

CITY OF RIVERDALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**To the residents, business & property owners, developers, builders and workers of the
City of Riverdale:**

This is your chance to guide your Community's growth!!

The City of Riverdale has selected a team of experts to update its Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive Plan is a requirement of the State of Georgia that will serve as a living document and promote the community's goals and objectives for the next twenty years.

The City of Riverdale will benefit from this comprehensive plan update by identifying important quality of life issues and developing policies to address them. Specifically, the comprehensive plan looks at the issues of population, transportation, historic and natural resources, community facilities, economic development, housing and land use. If used effectively, this plan will be the tool to determine how your city will grow, where its public facilities will be located and what types of quality of life improvements will be made.


In updating this plan, Riverdale elected officials have made it clear a top priority is to reach out to the public and ask for their guidance concerning goals and objectives for the city. The consulting team has been directed to host community meetings in four different areas of the city allowing each and every citizen an opportunity to choose where he or she would like to participate. Comprehensive Plan public meetings will include a visioning workshop to help identify the types of developments the city would like to see over the next twenty years. Specific goals, policies and objectives will be derived from each of these public input meetings, based on citizen feedback. This will direct the consulting team to develop a plan specific to the community's unique identity.

Each of the meetings will be identical, so please pick a date and location that best fits you. These events promise to be informative, and FUN!!

Meeting dates, times and locations include:

January 11	6-9 p.m.	Riverdale Elementary School, 6630 Camp Street, Riverdale, GA 30274
January 13	6-9 p.m.	Riverdale High School, 160 Roberts Drive, Riverdale, GA 30274
January 18	6-9 p.m.	Church Street Elementary School, 7013 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274
January 20	6-9 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers, 6690 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274

Please pass this information along to your friends and family! We need to hear from as many people as possible. For additional information, please contact Brantley Day, Riverdale Community Development Director at 770-996-3397 extension 11.



PASTOR HARRY RILEY

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PASTOR HARRY RILEY

6449 Church Street 770-991-3551

In the Heart of Riverdale, GA www.lakewin.org

**If You Live in Riverdale
And Want A Say in Riverdale
Then Pray in Riverdale**

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:30 AM
Sunday Praise & Worship: 10:00 AM

"THINK"



**7335 Highway 85
Riverdale, GA 30274**

Gym Fun School of Gymnastics

Call for more information, 770-997-6363

New at Buster's Fun Factory, located at the old Sparkles, Gymnastics Classes will begin in February 2005. Plus there will be 2 Free Classes in January for anyone that enrolls by Feb. 1st. Lessons will be available for Parent & child 18 mos to 3 years old and ages 4 through 12. Gymnastics is the best way to help your son or daughter development strength, coordination, confidence, and have fun too.

Call 770-997-6363 and bring your registration form to Buster's Fun Factory under the big skate.
Parent & Child \$40.00 per month, All other classes are \$45.00 per month

Registration Form

Child's Name: _____ Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____ Age: _____ M _____ F _____

Gymnastics Experience: _____

City of Riverdale Information Corner

Municipal Staff

- ♦ Iris Jessie, *City Manager*
- ♦ Lonnie W. Ballard, Jr.
Assistant to the City Manager
- ♦ Sandra Meyers, *City Clerk*
- ♦ T.A. Knox *Police Chief*
- ♦ Billy Hayes, *Fire Chief*
- ♦ Jerri Slemons, *Director Communications/911*
- ♦ Minette Pass, *Director Court Services*
- ♦ Ron Gossett, *Director Public Works*
- ♦ Brantley Day, *Director Community Development*

Important Numbers

Emergency: Dial 911

City Hall: 770-997-8989
Police Dept: 770-996-3382
Fire Services: 770-996-1912
Court Services: 770-991-0462
Public Works: 770-996-3397
Community Development & Code Enforcement: 770-996-3397



Citizens Advisory Committee

Carol D. Reeves
Vanessa Johnson—Muhammad
Cynthia Stamps-Jones
Pete Wilkerson
Kenny Ruffin
Jerry Harrington
Evelyn Dixon

**The Public is
Always Invited &
Welcome at ALL
Meetings**

Hearings & Meetings

City Council Meetings

2nd Monday

Work Session: 6:00 PM
Regular Session: 7:00 PM

4th Monday

Work Session: 6:00 PM
Regular Session & Rezoning: 7:00 PM

Planning Commission

3rd Monday, 7:30 PM

Board of Zoning Appeals

1st Monday, 7:00 PM

City Council Chambers
City Hall
6690 Church Street

RIVERDALE POLICE AND CITIZENS MAKE A NEW P.A.C.T.

By Sgt. Lisa Presley, RPD



Teamwork is an essential part of community policing and working with the citizens is a critical element in the effort to keep our communities safer. With this in mind, City of Riverdale Police Chief Thetus Knox is teaming up with community representatives and making a "pact" to be partners in that effort.

The Police and Citizens Together or PACT Council is designed to bring police

and community representatives together to collaborate on projects designed to improve police/community relations. The group will also help design public safety activities after analyzing their value to the citizens of Riverdale. The collaboration is a tremendous step in the police department's continuing effort to foster a positive relationship with the community.

One of the many benefits of the program is the shift in focus from reactive encounters with police to a more proactive approach. Too often, citizens encounter police after they have been victims of a crime, had an accident or received a traffic citation. While in most cases the interaction is positive, the goal is to have community interaction with police before something happens. In other cases there is never any personal contact with police. Too often a citizen will see a patrol car in their neighborhood, but never personally encounter an officer. One of the goals of the council is to change this.

The council is comprised of citizens,

business owners and clergy members in the Riverdale Community. Currently there are 21 members serving on the council. The group meets quarterly to assign tasks and address concerns that they have with the city.

A meeting to elect officers and committee members will be held January 25th, 2005 at City Hall at 7:00pm

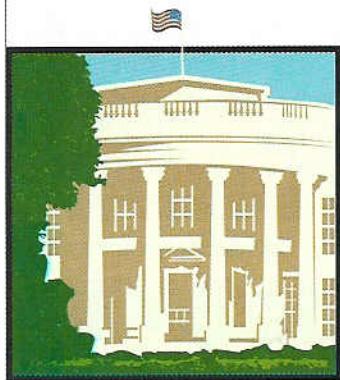
Survey Update!

In the previous issue, we published a survey to gauge the needs of our citizens. We appreciate your response, which was overwhelmingly positive. With the survey, you told the Mayor and Council that you want:

- 1) More outings hosted by the City;
- 2) A hotline to report gang activity;
- 3) A Neighborhood Watch Program sponsored by the police department; and
- 4) A Community Forum, giving you the opportunity to meet and speak with elected officials.

Thank you very much for your input!

ATLANTA AREA PRESIDENTIAL CLASSROOM (PC) SCHOLARS "ON THE MOVE" IN GA AND "ACROSS AMERICA"



A number of Atlanta High School Juniors and Seniors are past and present participants in the Washington DC civic education pro-

gram, "A Presidential Classroom for Young Americans". Presidential Classroom is a civic education program that draws outstanding high school juniors and seniors from all over the U.S. These high school students are chosen to represent their respective high schools, home communities, and state in a civic education program experience that truly

is an opportunity to spend one week in our nation's capital city exploring the "inner-workings" of our Federal government and political system.

Atlanta area high school students represent Tucker Senior High School, Riverdale Senior High School, Lakeside Senior High School, Benjamin E. Mays Senior High School, and The Blackstone Academy, just to name a few.

In addition to attending Presidential Classroom in Washington, many of these same Atlanta area high school students participated in a PC Youth Development Leadership Conference which is an annual reunion of PC Scholars. Some of their parents from the Atlanta area and from around the US were part of "PC 2004 in GA".

The goals, objectives, and mission of these annual youth leadership conferences are designed to reinforce important civic education lessons learned in high school American government classes regarding how federal, state, and local governments operate and interact, and to foster their interests and empowerment for community service

project at the state and local levels. Likewise, they are designed to create a leadership network that will encourage the development of a professional organization of PC alumni, and to support the continued participation of local high school students in Presidential Classroom in Washington, DC each year. The next state and local PC 2005 Youth Leadership Conference will be in Little Rock, AR, February 24-27, 2006.

Mr. Elbert Murphy (A Morehouse College '84 Graduate) is the nationwide Volunteer Assistant Director for Recruitment for Presidential Classroom. Mr. Murphy frequently travels to and from Atlanta and other cities across America to recruit and promote this unique civic education opportunity for many high school students. Mr. Murphy is currently recruiting students for PC's 2005 winter and Summer Programs. For more information, Mr. Murphy may be reached at 202-377-3552 or by e-mail at: Elbert.Murphy@Ed.gov.

RIVERDALE CITY POLICE OFFICER'S DOING GOOD JOB IN SPITE OF THE PUBLIC'S OPINION

By Jerry & Fran Harrington

Upon attending the Riverdale City Council Meeting on Monday, December 13th, I would like to give credit where credit is due. I have heard many Riverdale Citizens complain that the police are picking on them. They are being unfair, unjust and prejudice. Bologna!! That's right.

Several of those of whom I have heard complain have made the next statement out of their mouths totally contradicting their complaint statements.



Example: Riverdale is picking on me. They gave me a ticket because my tag was expired and I just got my car out of the shop this morning. Knowing when they put it in the shop that the tag was already expired.

I slowed down at that stop sign, why did I get a ticket?

I had to swerve into the other lane because I had to answer my cell phone.

The speed limit is 45 so why can't I go 60?

Excuses, Excuses, Excuses! The world today lives off excuses instead of responsibility. It's no wonder our children blame others every time they get into trouble. This old statement is so true: "children learn what they see and observe faster than what they are taught."

Parents, when you tell that lie to the cops and your children are in the car, take note: they will follow in your footsteps. If my parents don't have to take responsibility why do I?

To get to my original point: At the Council meeting on December 13, 2004, several of Riverdale's finest police men and women were honored for their acts of courage, diligence, endurance, and success for capturing criminals wanted for rape, robbery, indecent exposure to adults as well as children, and other crimes. They risked their lives to insure the safety of each citizen of the Riverdale Community.

Next time you are stopped for breaking the law, take a moment to thank that officer. He or she may have stopped you from hurting yourself, your children, or someone else. Let the incident encourage you to be a more law abiding citizen and turn the experience into something positive. Take responsibility for your unjust actions and accept the consequences.

**THANKS TO ALL OF THE RIVERDALE POLICE
FOR THE GREAT JOBS YOU DO!**

Riverdale Neighborhood University Graduates First Class

The Riverdale Neighborhood University (RNU) inaugural class began on October 12, 2004 with over twenty (20) participants. RNU is an educational program dedicated to providing the highest quality training to local citizens to foster a sense of commitment, pride and excellence. City officials as well as guest speakers provided instruction to local residents on various topics including: Understanding Your City Government 101, Understanding Environmental Codes 101, Dealing with Difficult Neighbors and Fundamentals of Neighborhood Leadership.

Classroom instruction engaged, informed and equipped citizens with the training and technical assistance needed to increase their capacity to be-

come better advocates for their communities. RNU also provided opportunities for networking and sharing practical ideas for prob-



lem solving, decision making and managing community development initiatives. On December 13th, RNU graduates were recognized by the Mayor and Council and awarded certificates of completion. Afterward, participants shared their personal sentiments

about their positive experiences in the program and encouraged other citizens to participate in future sessions.

All Neighborhood University courses are free and open to citizens of Riverdale, GA. The next session will begin in the spring. If you are interested, please complete an application and mail or hand deliver it to: Riverdale City Hall, 6690 Church Street, Riverdale, GA 30274 ATTENTION: Assistant to the City Manager. Should you have any questions, please call (770)997-8989, ext. 157. Classes are limited to 15 participants and selection will be made on a first come – first served basis. An application must be completed and returned in order to secure a slot in the class.

Shop-With-A-Cop

Written by Pete Wilkerson

Have you heard the latest news involving the Riverdale Police Department and several local children? I have, and as a concerned resident of Riverdale, I **MUST** inform the public. But before I share this information, I must warn you; this is not a negative story but a positive one!

Now that I have piqued your interest, allow me to share this informative story with my fellow residents of Riverdale. The Riverdale Police Department held their 3rd Annual “*Shop-With-A-Cop*” program on December 9, 2004. One would ask, “what is the ‘*Shop-With-A-Cop*’ program?” Well, good question. The “*Shop-With-A-Cop*” program is designed to assist selected families during the holiday season and take them shopping. This year, the program adopted ten families, which consisted of a total of 33 children. Each family was paired with participating police officers, as they went on a \$250-\$300 shopping spree at Wal-Mart. The families also received a \$25 Kroger gift card and a Holiday dinner from Publix. Chick-Fil-A provided dinner on the day of the event, and the children were surprised by a visit from Santa, who stopped by to give each child a gift and take photos.

After reading this article, I’m sure you will agree that this is the kind of “feel-good” story needed to unite a community and make its citizens feel proud. On behalf of all residents, I’d like to extend a special thanks to all participating companies involved, and all the men and women of the Riverdale Police Department, who are working diligently to *Serve and Protect* us here in the city of Riverdale. Thank you for a job well done.



VETERAN'S DAY EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS

City of Riverdale Recognizes Veterans

The City of Riverdale, in partnership with VFW Post 3650 sponsored a program on Saturday, November 6, 2004 at 12pm in the Veterans Memorial Park (located on the grounds of the



Above: VFW Commander Helen Denton and Congressman David Scott.

Riverdale City Hall complex) in recognition and observation of Veterans Day. A wreath laying celebration at the monument in Veterans' Memorial Park was followed by

the featured speakers for the event, the Honorable David Scott, U.S. Congressman representing the 13th Congressional District and Colonel Angela Manos, **Below:** The Tuskegee Airmen



rison Commander of Ft. McPherson and Ft. Gillem.

Clayton County Commissioner Elect Eldrin Bell sang the National Anthem, Riverdale Mayor Phaedra Graham provided the welcome and the Riverdale High School ROTC posted the colors. Members of the Atlanta Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen were recognized.

Over 200 people attended the event.



Above: Clayton County Commission Chairman Eldrin Bell, Mayor Phaedra Graham, Congressman David Scott, and Lakewin Pastor Harry Riley (far right).

Rainbow House Donation

By Council Member Kenny Ruffin
Ward IV



The Rainbow House is a shelter for abused and disadvantaged kids aged 0 to 18 in Jonesboro. The first week of November, they suffered extensive damage from an accidental fire that started from a lawn mower in a storage shed. This incident caused 15 kids to be placed unexpectedly in already crowded foster homes. The shelter lost its November per diem reimbursement from the Department of Human Resources totaling \$50,000 in income. Financial and other help was needed from the community. Insurance was not enough to pay for retaining their employees, especially with the holidays coming up.

An emergency wish list was created

Below: (l-r) Council Members Rick Scoggins & Kenny Ruffin, Mayor Phaedra Graham, and State Representative Ron Dodson



which included toys, baby items, clothes, toiletries, kitchen items and paper items. City Hall was opened, December 11 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, to collect donations. three or four truckloads of items were collected along with 15 bikes from the Riverdale Wal Mart. The bikes were the idea of Riverdale police Sergeant Terry Hargett and Wal Mart manager Luis Bonora. These items were taken to the shelter that same afternoon during their annual telethon at Southern Regional Hospital.

The shelter will be back in operation soon, but donations are always needed. Please call them at 770-478-6905 or Email at info@rainbowhouseinc.org. www.rainbowhouseinc.org is their website. Philip Kouns is the Director.

RIVERDALE YOUTH INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

The RYIBL, under the leadership of Director Lindsey McDaniel, has grown from 65 last year to 95 young men this year. With support from the city, 4 teams, ages 11-13, and 6 teams, ages 14-16 will play games each Saturday beginning January 8. The junior league plays from 10:00 AM to noon with the seniors playing from noon to 3:00 PM. All games will be played at Riverdale First United Methodist Church at 6390 Riverdale Rd. Playoffs games begin March 19 with the season culminating in a banquet for all participants.

A large number of coaches and players are returnees from last year. This indicates a sense of belonging with bonds being established between all involved. Commitment, teamwork and discipline are several of the life skills stressed during the practices and games. Try your luck at the halftime 3 point shot contest. Concessions will be available at a minimal cost. We're also asking local business to place ads in our yearbook to help support the league. Please come and show support for our young people. Visit us at our website, online at

<http://eteamz.active.com/ryibl>



Fall Fest 2004 Celebration

Written by Cynthia Stamps-Jones and Vanessa Johnson-Muhammad

Sunday, October 31st marked a historical event in the City of Riverdale. On this day, Riverdale held its 1st Annual Fall Festival. This event was free to the public. It was held at Buster's Family Fun Center, which was formerly known as Sparkles Skate Center (the big skate on Hwy 85).

Citizens and businesses in Riverdale and the surrounding areas joined in helping to make this event a tremendous success. The focus of the Fall Festival was to create a unified community, as well as, provide a fun and safe environment for all, which was accomplished.

Over three thousand local and surrounding citizens were in attendance. The festival's Master of Ceremony was BET COMIC

VIEW comedian Arnesto J. There was entertainment in and outdoors for all ages: costume contest, skating, games, a puppet show, an exhibition of local talent which included an array of dancers, steppers, dancing jump ropers, singers, a variety of rap groups, gymnastics, refreshments, prizes, candy and cakes galore again, all free.



The Fall Festival was initiated and chaired by Ward 4 Councilman- Kenneth Ruffin and City Manager-Iris Jessie who directed and steered a newly formed team of volunteers called the Riverdale Ambassadors: Cynthia Stamps-Jones, Vanessa Johnson-Muhammad, Minette Pass, Stephanie Campbell, Sharon Kellam, Deborah Thomas, and Cleo W. Magby.



This planning committee deserves a standing ovation for their commitment and hard work, along with the perseverance, dedication and support of the Riverdale Public Works Department- Mr. Ron Gossett, Mr. Boyd Cummings and their crew (outstanding job).

Mayor Phaedra Graham, Councilman Rick Scoggins, State Representative Roberta Abdul-Salaam and Kelley Jackson were also very instrumental in planning Fall Fest 2004.

The City of Riverdale is looking forward to having a bigger and better Fall Festival in 2005. Contact Ward 4 Councilman Kenneth Ruffin or City Manager Iris Jessie if you would like your name placed on the volunteers list for this or future city events, 770 997 8989, ext. 135.



Sponsors Support Fall Fest

Written by Cynthia Stamps-Jones and Vanessa Johnson-Muhammad

Special thanks are extended to the local business community, agencies, private citizens, and the City of Riverdale for their many contributions that allowed Fall Fest participants to enjoy free entertainment, food, and beverages without paying an admission fee. Thanks to our citizens, who donated money generated from recycling activities, the City of Riverdale was able to partially fund this community-wide event. The proceeds of the recycling activities are included in a "special projects" account that is used to pay for city-wide events such as the Fall Fest. This event would not have been possible without the support and contributions of the

following businesses:

Applebee's
Acts of Kindness
Bruster Ice cream
Buster Family fun Center (Sparkles Skating Rink)
Clayton County Schools, Mr. Kenny White
Chick-fil-a
Dee Dee Cocheta Williams Entertainment (ABCPublicity@aol.com)
Elevated Places Dance Exposures
Feed My People /Annette Lee and Allison Lewis
Food Depot
Farmers Market- Alexander produce, Diaz produce, Hatcher's produce, LR Produce and Market Grocery.
Gene McWhorter Carpentry
Heaven's Grocery
Kraft
Krystal

Little Giant
Nolan Frazier Entertainment
Pizza Hut
Pizza Works (inside Wayfield)
Point South Middle School Jump ropers
Publix
Rent-a-center, College Park
Riverdale High School- Step team, FBLA & Elite Sisterhood
River's Edge Elementary School Tumbling Team
Ryan's
Save-Rite
Lady T's Artist design Sister Theresa Art
Southern Regional
TBS Atlanta Braves
Wal-Mart
Williams Brother Mortuary
Wise Food





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✓ Services for Repair & Collision Shops

✓ Impound Services

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Riverdale Dwarf House

6549 Highway 85
Riverdale, GA 30274



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Just the Chicken Sandwich®*

The



Citizens' Newsletter
from the
City of Riverdale

Please Support Our Fine Sponsors!

Your Governing Authority
City of Riverdale
6690 Church Street
Riverdale, GA 30274

January/February 2005

City of Riverdale, GA
BULK RATE
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The Riverdale Citizen



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- ...and much, much more!

Addressed TO: